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CAREERS
in
SCHOOL MUSIC

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CAREERS IN SCHOOL MUSIC

Among the many definitions of Education is this one: "The purpose of education is to help to develop future citizens who are likely to be privately happy and publicly useful." Music is an important subject in the Ontario school system because it reaches all the pupils, bringing them in contact with beauty, giving them a means of self-expression, providing them with an outlet for their emotions, and furnishing them with a useful and elevating leisure-time interest. The schools also help to discover and encourage those with exceptional musical talent who may share their enjoyment with others either as a vocation or an avocation.

Music is an obligatory subject in elementary schools, and an optional subject in secondary schools. The course of study consists of making music (singing or playing), reading music (a study of music notation), and hearing music (appreciation through listening). Pupils also engage in many extra-curricular activities such as concerts, festivals and operettas.

Young persons who contemplate a career in school music should have a more than average share of these qualities: musical talent, dependability, sincerity, patience, a sense of humour, good physical and mental health, ambition to study and improve, ability to be inspiring and convincing, and a disposition to lead rather than drive. Today, more than 1,300 music teachers are engaged for full-or part-time in the schools of this Province, and there is a constant demand for their services. The work is interesting, fairly remunerative, and offers security, prestige, and many opportunities for advancement.

VOCAL MUSIC IN RURAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Rural schools are often ungraded; that is, all grades are in one room with one teacher. However, there are many two- three- and four-roomed rural schools, and even larger ones in the more thickly populated areas. Music in these schools is taught daily by the classroom teacher, and a Music Supervisor visits each classroom once a week, spending about forty-five minutes in each room. A private motor car is essential to enable the Supervisor to visit twenty to thirty schools, which could not otherwise be conveniently reached. It is the duty of the Music Supervisor to organize the course of study, to teach model lessons, and to show the teacher how to carry on the daily music lessons. The Supervisor is also expected to assist in preparing the pupils for festivals, concerts and other extra-curricular activities.

The Music Supervisor is required to hold certain certificates obtainable only through attendance at the Departmental Summer Courses in Music which are held each year at Toronto, and occasionally in other parts of the Province. Information regarding these certificates is contained in *Circular Music 5* (*Memorandum relating to Music and Music Certificates in Elementary and Secondary Schools*) which may be obtained from the Department of Education. A syllabus of the Summer Courses in Music and an application form are available after May 1st of each year.

Admission to the Summer Courses is limited to qualified school teachers, and to other applicants who hold an Ontario Secondary School Graduation Diploma of the general course (Grade 12) or its equivalent. There are no specific music requirements, but an applicant should have sufficient skill at the piano to play accompaniments to school songs, and a singing voice true enough to present an accurate pattern for the pupils. Some knowledge of music notation is essential.

Music is the only subject which may be taught or supervised in the Ontario schools by a person who does not hold a basic school teaching certificate. Young persons planning to make a career of school music should realize, however, that there is only a limited field for the music teachers who are not certificated to teach other subjects of study, although a considerable number of them make a satisfactory living by a combination of activities, such as school music supervision, private tutoring, and church choir work. Prospective school music teachers are urged to qualify as regular teachers by attending one of the Provincial Teachers' Colleges. Information regarding admission requirements, courses, and teaching as an occupation is published in a booklet entitled *Teaching in the Elementary Schools of Ontario*, which may be obtained on request, from the Deputy Minister of Education, Parliament Buildings, Toronto. Music teachers who are also qualified school teachers find a much wider choice of suitable positions, and less difficulty in winning the professional respect and co-operation of the teachers with whom they work. With the broader understanding of the problems of education which they gain at Teachers' College they are able to integrate music with other school subjects, and make it a vital factor in the lives of the pupils.

VOCAL MUSIC IN URBAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Urban schools are graded, with from four to forty rooms in one building. The method of supervision is similar to that in rural schools, but visits to each classroom are less frequent, occurring possibly every two, three, or four weeks. The need of weekly visits is not quite so great as in rural schools, because, with fewer grades under her care, the teacher covers a less extensive course. Urban teachers are also likely to stay longer in one position, and they have the advantage of being able to get help from other teachers in the same building. The need of supervision, however, is just as great, in order to give individual help to the teachers, many of whom have had little musical training, and also to ensure continuity in the presentation of instruction in music throughout the school.

The certification required of Music Supervisors in cities and towns is the same as in rural schools, but it is even more advantageous in urban centres to hold a basic teaching certificate. Many attractive positions require the teaching of other subjects besides music, and even in the case of full-time music positions, the teacher who holds also a general certificate is likely to be preferred by local School Boards, whose responsibility it is to engage teachers.

MUSIC IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS

In Secondary Schools, music is taught by a specially-trained teacher who organizes his own Course of Study under the supervision of the school Principal and the Department Inspectors. The instruction may be in vocal or instrumental music, or both. The teacher usually is a member of the regular staff, and in most cases divides his time between music and academic subjects. He holds a University degree, has spent an additional year at the Ontario College of Education, and has graduated with a High School Assistant's Certificate. At the college he may, by choosing the Music Option, obtain a certificate in music at the same time, and, if necessary, complete his music standing by attending one or more Summer Courses in Music. Whereas many University degrees are accepted for entrance to the Ontario College of Education, the most favoured for school music teaching are those in which music is a major part of the undergraduate course, especially the Bachelor of Music (Education) degree from the University of Toronto. Holders of these degrees may complete the requirements for a Music Specialist Certificate

without attending Summer Courses, and are generally assured of a good position upon graduation. Further information may be obtained by writing to The Dean, Ontario College of Education, 371 Bloor Street West, Toronto 5.

A limited number of persons qualified to teach music only are employed on a part-time or full-time basis in the Secondary Schools. They are required to hold music certificates obtained at the Departmental Summer Courses held in Toronto, which offer three consecutive courses in both Vocal and Instrumental Music, leading to Interim Elementary, Intermediate, and Specialist Certificates. No candidate may be admitted to the Specialist courses unless he holds one of several specified music degrees, diplomas, or certificates acceptable to the Department, a list of which may be obtained from the Department of Education. The number of positions available to persons qualified to teach music only is quite limited.

SALARIES OF MUSIC TEACHERS

All teachers' salaries are determined by the local School Boards which employ them. The salary range for music teachers employed for full time by one Board is likely to be as follows:

Secondary Schools	$3750.00 to $7950.00 per annum
Elementary Schools	$2500.00 to $6500.00 per annum

Where music teachers are employed part-time by several Boards as Itinerant Supervisors their salaries are likely to range as follows:

Each one-room school $135.00 to $165.00 per annum
Each two-room school $235.00 to $290.00 per annum
Each three-room school $320.00 to $390.00 per annum
Each four-room school $390.00 to $480.00 per annum

In larger schools the salary would depend upon the amount of time spent in the school. In most cases the figures quoted for Itinerant Supervisors would include the cost of transportation.

OTHER MUSIC CAREERS

Students who are interested in musical careers other than in schools are advised to obtain a copy of the monograph "Musician", published by The Guidance Centre, Ontario College of Education, 371 Bloor Street West, Toronto, Ontario.

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